Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Md. 20734
December 28, 1966

Mr. Jay Donahue
Box 915
Catholic University
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Donahue,

Your letter coincides with asimilar inquiry from California, where I was last week: What can students do to get the inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy reopened? While the movement you mention has failed to materialize on a national scale, there is an active group in Los Angeles, of which one of the co-chairmen is Mr. Steven J. Burton, to whom I am sending a copyx of this letter to introduce you to each other. His home address is 4829 Morella Ave., North Hollywood, Calif. 91607. His organization is the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, Box 150, 380 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024. I believe most of the members of this group are students at UCLA. Perhaps you can help each other, or possibly Mr. Burton and his group have had experiences that might be of interest to you.

I am in general accord with your proposal of a debate, subject to previous commitments. However, I think you will have a problem with the other side. I doubt if any member of the Commission will debate, and I frankly doubt that at this juncture he should. The members of the staff of the former Commission are at least as reluctant. I had expected four confrontations between December 6 and x 17 and I was always alone. A few of the former lawyers will debate a few of those of us who have written critically of the Commission and its work. They will not debate me, it seems. A New York TV station, as you may recall from the announcement on The Minority Report, agreed to a Majority Report and former staff members agreed until they heard I had been accepted to represent the minority side. Now only two of the less important members will appear. I have agreed to debate them, assisted by a famous lawyer on their side, but the arrangements have not been completed. I frankly believe those members of the staff who had unimportent functions should not take the heat for those responsible for the serious work and most serious flaws of the Commission, and, although I have agreed to face these three, I think the time has past for that side to be represented by champions. They must now stand and be counted or known to be sitting, for whatever reason. I believe the people of the country will draw the correct conclusions.

At several other universities, students have been able to arrange through either their Student Union or the regular lecture series to have speakers appear. Perhaps this may be possible for you, if it interests you. I am not alone in having spoken to university groups. Mark Lane has done a lot of it that I know of.

I believe that a dialogue is essential, but it is impossible to arrange because the other side defaults. This applies to both spoken and written debates, where even those who have slandered me will not face me, even on the printed page. However, I will help you in any way I can. I am pressed for time, so if you write again please given me a phone at which I can reach you when I am in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg